Air Station in Darbhanga of Bihar

†698. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up a Doordarshan Kendra in Benipur, Darbhanga (Bihar);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) With the launch of Ku-Band transmission service (free-to-air DTH) by Doordarshan on 16th December, 2004, its bouquet, consisting of 33 TV and 12 radio channels, can be received throughout the country, including Bihar, with the help of a small sized dish receive unit. Areas not covered by terrestrial transmission have been provided with the multi-channel coverage through Ku-Band service. Hence, no new transmitters are now contemplated.

Regulation of foreign broadcasters

699. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign broadcasters are operating without any Universal Service Obligation (USO) being imposed on their service;

(b) whether Government are loosing their revenue by not regulating the broadcaster;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have made any effect to check malpractices in the system?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTNG (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) There is no Universal Service Obligation (USO) on any foreign Broadcaster.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.